

Minutes EMS Emergency Management Committee Meeting
The Place at Innsbrook, Henrico County
May 18, 2006

Present

Jack Barbour, Health and Medical Emergency Response Teams (HMERT); Bubby Bish, Governor's Advisory Board (GAB); Petra Menzel Connell, EMS for Children (EMSC); Bill Berthrong, VDH Emergency Preparedness and Response (EP&R); Jim Nogle, Office of Emergency Medical Services (OEMS); Karen Owens, OEMS; Mike Player, VA-1 Disaster Medical Assistant Team (DMAT) and Virginia Association of Governmental EMS Administrators (VAGEMSA); Winnie Pennington, OEMS; Sue Maddox Toth, Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT).

Call to order:

At 1011 AM committee chairman Bubby Bish called the meeting to order. Introductions were made for those attending the meeting for the first time.

March's minutes were reviewed approved.

Chairman's Report:

Chairman Bish gave a brief report of the Advisory Board meeting. He reported that for Emergency Management nothing significant had come out of that meeting. He did report to the Board that the Mass Causality Incident Courses (MCI) I and II had been updated. He also reminded the Board of the EMS Forum taking place on the May 18, 2006, in Alexandria, VA, inviting them to participate if they could. He also reported that the Advisory Board had discussed at length items concerning OEMS functionality which the Board will continue to address through a resolution to the Board of Health and other opportunities.

Member Agency Reports/Updates:

Office of Emergency Medical Services (OEMS) - Operation

Jim Nogle reported on the last two deployments of the HMERT first to the National Disaster Medical System (NDMS) Exercise at Chesterfield Airport and to the Langley Air Show, paired up with the VA1 DMAT. For the first time Chesterfield Fire and EMS took an active leadership role in the NDMS exercise and there were some misconceptions by the staff to be cleared up about the role of the HMERT. There is an after action report (AAR) meeting on June 12, 2006 and OEMS Operations will be there to discuss the abilities and roles of the HMERT to facilitate better understanding by Chesterfield Fire and EMS and Emergency Management. Deployment to the Langley Air Show with the VA1 DMAT was a first for the HMERT with the teams' main job to be the transportation arm of the DMAT. Jim advised that during Hurricane Isabel there were plenty of DMATs deployed and responding but they found that once they set up and started

receiving patients they had no way to move these patients to appropriate facilities. Teams that participated found the experience to be good, but equipment issues hindered some teams from responding even after they had made a commitment to the event. Currently teams rely on their regions for equipment and if that equipment is tied up or out of service teams are not available for deployment. Generally an additional team may be put on standby, but due to the Nextel Races in Richmond that weekend, this was not possible. In addition to equipment there is some recruitment and retention issues that OEMS feels will be corrected with the placement of the new HMERT Coordinator position. This position was approved last December, but for some reason has not been posted or filled. Jim also advised that OEMS is receiving more and more requests for the HMERT at special events. Although this gives the teams opportunities to drill, this is not what the teams were originally designed to do. Teams do not charge to respond but there is a cost factor with equipment and manpower that will have to be addressed if this trend continues.

In conclusion of his report, Jim reported that EP&R Training (Suzi Silverstein's shop) will be offering MCI I on line available through the Health Department's TRAIN web site.

Karen reported that she will be talking about the updating of the MCI I and II modules during old business.

Winnie reported that the HRSA Grant project is moving forward with surveys sent out and returned and raw data compiled. She is currently waiting on a review and comments from the working group so that work can begin on a needs assessment on ambulance and EMS first responder surge. Hopefully this will be a two year grant with the first year identifying the need and the second year developing a check list for localities and agencies to update their plans.

Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) –

Sue Maddox-Toth reported that the Operations Management Division and Security and Emergency Management Division of VDOT will be merged into one organization to be known as the Operations and Security Division to be headed by Mr. Gummada Murthy who has just been hired by VDOT. She also reported that VDOT will be updating their business plan which will include the elimination of some positions in the Central Office and the Divisions. There should be no change in the current operations of the TEOC or change in the VDOT Liaison for EMSEMC although scope of duties in the TEOC may increase.

A comprehensive report from VDOT is attached and on file.

Emergency Medical Services (EMS) for Children –

Petra Connell shared information on a New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene website that featured an administrative Pediatric Disaster Tool Kit and

information on a free DVD entitled, The Decontamination of Children: Preparedness and Response for Hospital EDs

For Tool Kit information go to <http://www.nyc.gov/html/doh/html/bhpp/bhpp-focus-ped.shtml>

To order free DVD call AHRQ Clearinghouse at 1-800-358-9295 or send an e-mail to ahrqpubs@ahrq.gov (Specify Product No. 05-0036-DVD or Product No. 05-0036 VD to order VHS video) The DVD also comes with a packet of information.

Petra also brought in an article on Pediatric Nerve Agent Poisoning for the committee. A comprehensive report from EMS for Children is attached and on file along with the article.

Old Business

Bubby introduced some draft letters that Winnie had developed to encourage listed members and invite new partners to participate in the EMSEMC meetings. Bubby also advised the committee that since the last meeting he has been able to get in touch with Willie Howlett who is head of the Virginia Associations of Fire Chiefs to advise him the committee and to invite him to come to the meeting. Mr. Howlett told Bubby that he did not know he was on the committee and was interested in attending a meeting. He could not attend today due to another commitment, but plans to attend in July. Winnie will send him a packet of information on the Committee. Bubby has also e-mailed the representative for the Virginia Firefighters Association but has not heard back from that gentleman. Bubby will continue to try to contact him and other possible members. Additional names given to the committee were Suzanne Simmons and Anna McRay from the Volunteer Coordination Program and CERT Training at VDEM, Lt. Col. Bill Mahoney at Virginia Army National Guard, and Capt. "Len" Terry at Virginia State Police and Doug Young, new VEMA President. Karen suggested that Bubby get with Irene Hamilton at OEMS to possible get names and numbers of agencies on the membership list that have no representatives listed so that letters and calls would go to the correct people. It was agreed by the committee that formal letters of invitation followed up by possible telephone calls were a good idea for contacting new or returning members. Bubby asked that members to review the drafts have their comments back to Winnie by May 26, 2006 so that final letters could be drafted.

Karen passed out packets with the updated MCI I and II modules in them. She reported that MCI I was now on a DVD-CD to be given in EMT-B classes. She will have to make DVDs for instructors. Karen asked that committee members take the information home and go over it and send suggestions and changes back with in two weeks from today. Mike asked if he could be added back to the authorship, it was decided to add the complete authorship to the back of the books. He also said at first glance he would suggest taking out "sectors" in order for the training to be NIMS compliant. Mike also suggested that there might be one slide in the MCI training, especially for new EMTs to introduce the National Response Plan (NRP), NIMS, and ICS and hopefully prevent students from thinking it might not be NIMS compliant. Karen advised that the February

EMSAT was done by Steve Grainer and Jim Nogle and was a basic presentation of NIMS and how it operates using a family unit. Mike asked if it might be used as an add-on to the MCI I program. Jim said its production had been two fold, 1) to educate EMTs new and old and 2) as a presentation for outside agencies who would become involved under NIMS in a response. Karen reported that they had been using IS 700 off the FEMA web-site as the MCI IV and had presented it at symposium where even those who had taken IS 700 on FEMA's site said they enjoyed the course because of the interaction with other students. It might be that the EMSAT DVD can go at the beginning to introduce the subject and also have it available for the EMT instructors.

New Business

Jim advised the committee that after restructuring in the Office the CISM Program will now fall under Operations. Operations staff, Jim, Ken, and Winnie will be attending the CISM Training May 31 – June 3, 2006. Also, Tom Schwartz will represent the Office on the NIC Committee reference questions on current NIMS training and responder credentialing issues.

Jim voiced concern that NIMS has become less of a coordinated effort as different groups want it tailored to their needs. Mike was also concerned that we don't look like we are changing the core elements to cater to our specialized groups like EMS. All agreed that the core elements should be emphasized.

Petra reported that the "Disaster Preparedness for Children" classes held at the School Nurses Institute went well and that having Jim there was a good addition. Friday's class was full and Saturday's class had 28 students. EMS will help them look for ways to solve the nurse's money concerns for implementation.

The question was raised by Jim about the Tidewater evacuation plan for hurricane threats and any coordinated efforts to use the HMERT during that time. Sue said that in VDOT there was no new information that she knew of at this time, but there had been some discussion on access and entry and the pre-staging of emergency equipment during such and event. She will research and give a follow-up report at the next meeting.

Mike and Jim brought up the question of planning for emergency access using the existing ferry system that currently operations from Jamestown to Scotland in Surry County. Mike asked Sue if any consideration, in the Statewide Emergency Plan, had been given to re-routing the ferries during Tidewater evacuations to go from Hampton to Tidewater. Sue said it was not currently in the plan and did not know if was being considered but agreed to take the idea back to Mike McAllister the Security Manager for comment and considerations. She did state that other options like pontoon bridges and amphibious vehicles out of Fort Eustis had been talked about but did not have any additional information on that. All agreed that these options were not necessarily the best alternative and that the ferry option should be looked at seriously.

Mike also voiced concern about RHCC communication, control, and decisions made about how, where, and when patients are transported, where hospitals, who often have less information than the IC on scene and are free enterprises often competing with one another for business, are impacting events and decisions at the scene about patient care and transport during a MCI event.

Jim said that although the original concept with the RHCC was good in some areas it was not working as well as it could. Mike suggested that it be put on the table for future discussion by this committee and that representatives from the RHCCs be invited to discuss this with the committee. With computers assistance and availability in the field now available the system may need to be updated.

Next Scheduled Meeting

Meeting Schedule for the remainder of 2006 is as follows

July 20

September 21

November 16

All meetings are from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. (unless noted) at “The Place” at Innsbrook, Richmond, Va. the exact room will be announced before the meeting. All meetings include lunch.

Adjournment:

Meeting adjourned at 12:30 PM